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**Publisher:** Wea H. Lee  
**President:** Catherine Lee  
**Editor:** John Robbins

**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** News@scdaily.com

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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Indicted Giuliani associate worked on behalf of Ukrainian oligarch Firtash



FILE PHOTO: Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash arrives at court in Vienna, Austria, February 21, 2017. REUTERS/Heinz-Peter Bader/File Photo

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - One of the two Florida businessmen who helped U.S. President Donald Trump’s personal attorney investigate his political rival, Democrat Joe Biden, also has been working for the legal team of a Ukrainian oligarch who faces bribery charges in the United States, according to attorneys for the businessmen and the oligarch.

FILE PHOTO: Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash arrives at court in Vienna, Austria, February 21, 2017. REUTERS/Heinz-Peter Bader/File Photo  
Lev Parnas, one of the two associates of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, served as a translator for lawyers representing oligarch Dmytro Firtash. Parnas was arrested on Thursday along with the other Florida businessman, Igor Fruman, on unrelated charges that included illegally funneling \$325,000 to a political action committee supporting pro-Trump candidates.

Both men had worked in an unspecified capacity for Firtash before Parnas joined the Ukrainian’s legal team, according to a person familiar with the Florida men’s business dealings with Firtash.

The Floridians’ connection to indicted oligarch Firtash injects an intriguing new character into the rapidly unfolding drama surrounding the effort to impeach Trump.

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives launched the impeachment inquiry, the first step in unseating a U.S.

president, over allegations that Trump pressured the Ukrainian president to help investigate Biden, a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination. Giuliani was probing discredited allegations that Biden, when he was vice president, sought the firing of Ukraine’s chief prosecutor to halt the investigation of a gas company on which his son, Hunter Biden, was a board member. The Bidens have denied the claims, and the Trump camp has produced no evidence to support the assertions. Firtash, one of Ukraine’s wealthiest businessmen, is battling extradition by U.S. authorities on bribery charges from Vienna, where he has lived for five years. Federal prosecutors in Illinois said in court papers in 2017 that Firtash was an “upper-echelon” associate of Russian organized crime. He was indicted in 2013 and charged with bribing Indian officials for access to titanium mines. Firtash has denied any wrongdoing. Firtash was “financing” the activities of Parnas and Fruman, the source familiar with their business dealings said. The source did not detail their specific work for the oligarch or how much money he had paid them and over what period.

U.S. lawmakers have sought to question the pair about their involvement in Giuliani’s investigation as part of the impeachment inquiry. Giuliani told Reuters in an interview that Parnas and Fruman - U.S. citizens who were

born in Ukraine and Belarus, respectively - had helped “find people for me in Ukraine.” In recent months, Parnas was working for Firtash’s legal team, Joe DiGenova and Victoria Toensing. The firm worked on Firtash’s criminal and extradition cases. “Mr. Parnas was retained by DiGenova & Toensing, LLP as an interpreter in order to communicate with their client Mr. Firtash, who does not speak English,” the Washington-based firm said in a statement. A spokesman for the firm said Fruman was not retained in any capacity. DiGenova and Toensing did not comment further on Firtash’s business dealings with the two men in response to questions from Reuters. John Dowd, the lawyer representing Parnas and Fruman, confirmed to Reuters that Parnas had worked for Firtash’s legal team as an interpreter. But Dowd also told the U.S. Congress that both men worked for DiGenova and Toensing. On Oct. 3, Dowd wrote Congress to say the two men could not provide certain information about Ukraine because they were partially covered by attorney-client and other legal privileges. Dowd based the privilege claim on the fact that the two men assisted lawyers DiGenova and Toensing; that they had worked for Giuliani; and that Giuliani had previously represented them in their personal and business affairs. Dowd’s letter did not mention Firtash. He declined to respond to a request to clarify whether one or both of his clients worked for Firtash’s legal team.



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# U.S., China strike partial trade deal on agricultural purchases, currency

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters) - The United States and China agreed on Friday to the first phase of a trade deal covering agricultural purchases, currency and some aspects of intellectual property protections, and averting a threatened tariff hike, but President Donald Trump said more needed to be negotiated.

The preliminary, partial deal was the biggest step toward resolving a 15-month tariff war between the world's two largest economies that has roiled financial markets, disrupted manufacturing and has slowed global growth. Trump told reporters at the White House that the two sides are very close to ending the trade war and it will take up to five weeks to get the deal written. He spoke after talks with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters Trump had agreed not to proceed with a hike in tariffs to 30% from 25% on about \$250 billion in Chinese goods that was supposed to have gone into effect on Tuesday. But Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said Trump had not made a decision about tariffs that were subject to go into effect in December. Major U.S. stock indexes, which were trading sharply higher on hopes of some sort of a deal, pared some of the gains after the announcement, with the S&P 500 index .SPX up about 1.4%.



FILE PHOTO: Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., October 9, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

## Rising old used car prices help push poor Americans over the edge

FREEMONT, Ill. (Reuters) - For America's working poor, an often essential ingredient for getting and keeping a job - having a car - has rarely been more costly, and millions of people are finding it impossible to keep up with payments despite prolonged economic growth and low unemployment.

Owner of Good People Automotive Gordy Tormohlen talks about the cars he sells in Freeport, Illinois, U.S., August 12, 2019. REUTERS/Nick Carey  
More than 7 million Americans are already 90 or more days behind on their car loans, according to the New York Federal Reserve, and serious delinquency rates among borrowers with the lowest credit scores have by far seen the fastest acceleration.

The seeds of the problem are buried deep in the financial crisis, when in the midst of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, automakers slashed production. A decade later, that has made a relative rarity of used 10-year-old vehicles that are typically more affordable for low-wage earners.

According to data provided to Reuters by industry consultant and car shopping website Edmunds, the average price of that vintage of vehicle is \$8,657, still nearly 75% higher than in 2010 despite some softening in prices over the last year. The average new car, in contrast, has seen a price rise of 25% in that same time period.

"This is pinching people at the worst point

possible," said Ivan Drury, Edmunds' senior manager of industry analysis. "If you need basic A to B transportation, you have to get an older car that needs more repairs and has more wear-and-tear issues." Monthly auto payments for Americans making under \$40,000 have remained flat since 2017, while those in higher wage brackets have seen their payments rise, according to a Cox Automotive Inc analysis for Reuters. On the face of it, this might seem like good news. But to Cox chief economist Jonathan Smoke, it indicates poorer Americans are stretched so thin they cannot afford to pay more.

"They just don't have any flexibility to increase their payment," Smoke said.

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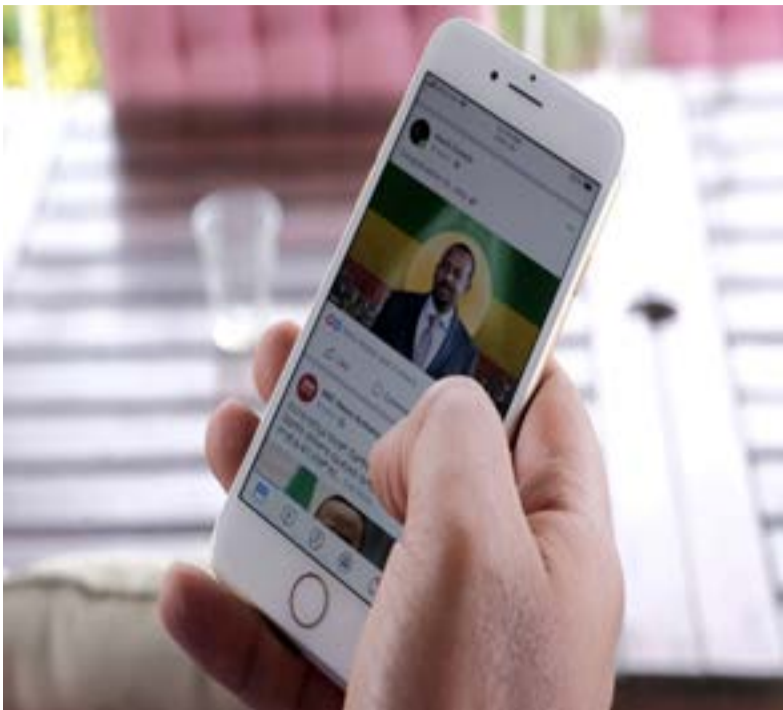


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**Editor's Choice**



A man scrolls down his cell phone for social media newsfeed about Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed winning the Nobel Peace Prize in Addis Ababa



Chair of the Nobel Committee Berit Reiss-Andersen holds a picture of Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, whom she previously announced as the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for 2019, displayed on a screen in Oslo, Norway October 11, 2019. NTB Scanpix/Stian Lysberg Solum/via



FILE PHOTO: Ethiopian Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, South Sudan's President, Salva Kiir, and Eritrean President, Isaias Afwerki, pose during a meeting in Juba



Protests against Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno's austerity measures in Quito



U.S. President Trump awards Medal of Freedom to former Attorney General Meese at White House in Washington



Protests against Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno's austerity measures in Quito



Protests against Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno's austerity measures in Quito



A U.S. Border Patrol agent seizes a rope ladder found rigged onto a levee wall after apprehending a group of undocumented migrants who illegally crossed the Rio Grande near Penitas

JAPAN TO DUMP ONE MILLION TONS OF RADIOACTIVE WATER INTO PACIFIC



Shown Above: A dead sea lion on Californina's coast shows high radiation readings.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

“The operator of the ruined Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant will dump huge quantities of contaminated water from the plant site directly into the Pacific Ocean, Japan’s environment minister has said – a move that would enrage local fishermen. Tepco (Tokyo Electric Power Company) admitted last year that the water in its tanks still contained contaminants beside tritium, even though they had already treated the waste materials. “The only option will be to drain it into the sea and dilute it,” the environment minister, Yoshiaki Harada, told a news briefing in Tokyo on September 10, 2019. One recent study by Hiroshi Miyano, who heads a committee studying the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi at the Atomic Energy Society of Japan, said it could take 17 years to discharge the treated water after it has been diluted to reduce radioactive substances to levels that meet the plant’s safety standards. Any decision to dispose of the waste water into the sea would anger local fishermen, who have spent the past eight years

rebuilding their industry. Nearby South Korea has also voiced concern over the impact it would have on the reputation of its own seafood. Last month, Seoul summoned a senior Japanese embassy official to explain how Fukushima Daiichi’s waste water would be dealt with. The government spent 34.5bn yen (£260m) to build a frozen underground wall to prevent groundwater reaching the three damaged reactor buildings. The wall, however, has succeeded only in reducing the flow of groundwater from about 500 tonnes a day to about 100 tonnes a day.



Japan has come under renewed pressure to address the contaminated water problem before Tokyo hosts the Olympics and Paralympics next summer. Six years ago during the city’s bid for the games, the prime minister, Shinzo Abe, assured the international community that the situation was ‘under control’.” Many experts, government officials of other nations, Japanese residents and activists strongly disagree. “The government must commit to the only environmentally acceptable option for managing this water crisis which is long term storage and processing to remove radioactivity, including tritium,” Shaun Burnie, senior nuclear specialist with Greenpeace Germany, said in an email. As far back as 2014, the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) recommended a controlled release of all this water into the ocean as ‘the safest course of action’, and Japan’s Nuclear Regulation Agency (NRA) has made similar recommendations. A ‘Tritiated Water Task Force’ convened by Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in 2013 (PDF) examined five options in detail, including evaporating it and releasing it into the atmosphere, releasing it into the atmosphere as hydrogen gas, injecting it into deep geologic strata, storing it underground, and diluting it and discharging it into the ocean. For reasons of cost, available technology, time required, and ‘safety’, in its final report issued in June, 2016, the task force concluded that ocean discharge was the least objectionable approach. Bottom line...dumping the nuclear waste is cheap and the currents will carry it away from Japan.



Japan seems to expect the world to accept the unproven myth that the ocean can “clean up” their mess by dissolving all the deadly radiation. As the Associated Press plainly noted: “The floating debris will likely be carried by currents off of Japan toward Washington, Oregon and California before turning toward Hawaii and back again toward Asia, circulating in what is known as the North Pacific gyre, said Curt Ebbsmeyer, a Seattle oceanographer who has spent decades tracking flotsam. “All this debris will find a way to reach the West coast or stop in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” a swirling mass of concentrated marine litter in the Pacific Ocean, said Luca Centurioni, a researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego.” And this process will be repeated over and over again as long as Japan continues to release radiation into the ocean. Japan does not dare release the waste into the atmosphere because history has shown that radiation will continue to fall on the earth for hundreds, or even thousands of years.



Japan is an island nation without adequate land mass to safely store these contaminants away from human populations. They cannot respond quickly to the problem like Russia did to their “toxic accident,” and so they are looking at between 40 to 100 years of “making room”

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**The 2019 Flu Season Is Predicted To Be Bad –  
The Public Is Encouraged To Get A Flu Shot**

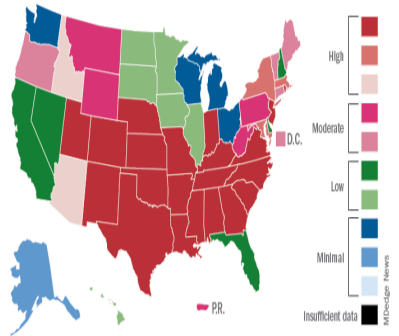


Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Flu seasons are notoriously unpredictable, but there are already clues that the upcoming season may be especially difficult. Flu season in the Southern Hemisphere can be an indication of what's to come in the Northern Hemisphere, and the recent flu season in Australia, where winter has just ended, arrived early and with a vengeance. A particularly virulent flu strain, H3N2, dominated. Additionally, a pediatric flu death has already been reported in the U.S. — a 4 year old in California who had underlying health problems.

"We should never forget that the flu still kills," Dr. Cameron Kaiser, a public health officer for Riverside County, California, said in a news release announcing the death. "A death so early in the flu season suggests this year may be worse than usual," Kaiser warned. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that last year, there were 37 million to 43 million flu illnesses in the U.S., and 36,400 to 61,200 flu-related deaths. Last year's flu season ran from Oct. 1, 2018, to May 4.

Influenza-like illness activity level, week ending Feb. 9, 2019



Note: Based on data from the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**The 2019 Flu Season Has  
"Staying Power."**

**Is it too early to get the flu vaccine?** No. Doctors say people should get the flu vaccine now, and certainly before Thanksgiving. "The concern with delaying it is that some people who might have the opportunity to get vaccinated now may not have that opportunity later," said Dr. Robert Atmar, a professor of medicine and an infectious disease expert at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"The most important thing is for people to get their flu vaccine, and get it before the epidemic starts," he said. Most healthy people who get the shot in September can expect some protection through the spring. But older adults may want to schedule their vaccination for sometime in October. "There is a concern that some older people may have their immunity wane simply because their immune system is more frail, less robust," Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Flu activity usually picks up in October and November, peaks around February, and can last well into the spring months. The CDC recommends everyone over age 6 months be vaccinated against the flu, especially expectant mothers. Pregnant women who get the flu tend to have complications similar to those over 65. The shot offers protection for both the woman and her unborn baby. It takes about two weeks to build immunity to influenza after getting the vaccine. But even then, the flu vaccine offers only partial protection. Last year, the vaccine didn't work well: Its overall effectiveness was 29 percent. Doctors blamed the poor match on a surprise second wave of H3N2 flu activity late in the season.



**Why should I get the flu vaccine even if it doesn't work well?** There is plenty of evidence that the vaccine can ease the severity of the flu if you do get sick. Doctors say people who

get the vaccine generally don't feel as sick if they do wind up with the flu, and they're less likely to develop complications of the virus, including pneumonia and death. "Partial protection frequently gets overlooked, and we shouldn't forget that," Schaffner said. "Because it's those complications that do you in." What's more, research published last year found the risk for heart attack or stroke increases the month after a person is diagnosed with the flu. The mechanism is likely one of inflammation and stress in the body caused by the virus. A specific flu shot call Fluzone may be best for older adults. "For people over age 65, there is evidence that the high-dose vaccine will provide greater than a standard dose vaccine," Atmar said.



Fluzone and the standard dose shots available this year include protection against several influenza strains, including H1N1 and H3N2. FluMist, the nasal spray favored by kids and anyone else averse to needles, is also back this year. (Courtesy nbcnews.com) **Related** **Australia Just Had a Bad Flu Season. That May Be a Warning for the U.S.** The flu season just ending in Australia

is one of the country's most severe ever, sickening more than 272,000 and killing 662: •It also started in April, two months earlier, and peaked in June and July compared to the usual peak between August and September.



**A human cell infected with the H3N2 flu virus, responsible for Australia's and the U.S.'s worst recent flu outbreaks. The same strain may dominate this year, too.** Steve Gschmeissner/Science Source •The 2017 flu season was Australia's deadliest in 20 years and was followed by the 2017-18 US season that killed nearly 80,000. •In the US, there has already been one pediatric death recorded after a 4-year-old boy from California died from flu-related complications last year. (Courtesy <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/>)

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